

COUNTER INFORMATION

NOV/DEC/JAN 1992/3

FIGHTING THE FORTRESS

AS THE European Community furthers its attempts to create a 'Fortress Europe', and racist and fascist violence Europe-wide is on the increase, so the fightback continues.

BRITAIN

1 August - 25000 people attend Anti-Racist Alliance festival in South London.

15 August - 2000 people demonstrate their support of '500 years of Resistance' in Liverpool.

The same day - the BNP's biggest planned meeting of the summer is reduced to a tiny fifteen-minute rally just outside Halifax. Despite police 'warnings' to members of the black community that it might not be safe to go into their own town, 700 anti-fascists prove that neither fascists nor the police can intimidate them.

21 August - Faced with a Tory proposal to bring in legislation forcing Gypsies and other travellers to settle in houses, Tommy Lee of the Romany Guild promises, "They'll never get this to work... There are 13000 gypsies with vehicles, who can block the streets of the City of London."

22 August - 3000 people bring Manchester city centre to a halt demonstrating their sadness at the deaths of Mohammed Sarwar and Siddik Dada, murdered in January, and anger at increasing racist attacks in the area.

31 August - the black community in Elswick, Newcastle organise a strong demonstration of 500 local people to show their anger at the fatal attack on Mr. Miah outside a mosque on 24 August.

12 September - fascists from Britain and Europe get a taste of working class justice when they meet with massive anti-fascist opposition at Waterloo station, advertised as the redirection point to a gig by the Nazi band Screwdriver. Of the 2000 bopping Nazis expected, only 500 make it to the gig in Eltham, a number find themselves in hospital, and a car displaying a BNP poster is completely written off.

- Among others, William Weekes and Mamta Chopra, with large community support, continue to fight racist immigration laws being utilised in attempts to deport them.

GERMANY

13 June - 2500 people attend solidarity demonstration for refugees attacked at a refugee camp in Mannheim, four days after a similar, 400-strong demonstration was brutally terminated by massive police action.

- Kreuzberg, Berlin. Vietnamese people, forced to live in a house for asylum-seekers, drive off fascists attempting to attack them. 29 August - Rostock sees 20000 anti-fascists take to the streets in response to the large-scale attacks on refugees and immigrants—basically amounting to Nazi riots—over the previous week. Solidarity demonstrations in other German cities, despite police attempts to restrict the movements of anti-fascists. Meanwhile racist attacks on refugee hostels continue at a rate of up to 20 a day.

Italy in Ferment

Strikes are sweeping Italy. Workers' grass roots committees (COBAS) are rejecting the sell-out of the official trade unions. An activist in the Centre of Anarchist Documentation in Padova sends this first hand report:

"THE ECONOMIC measures approved for 1993 by the Amato government cut public spending by around 93,000 thousand million lira.

Thousands of workers, pensioners, unemployed, young people and students have strongly protested against the economic manoeuvres of the government. Manoeuvres which immediately followed the financial whirlwind in Europe, the devaluation of the lira, and the recognition that Germany and market forces are the driving force of European unification.

The government is freezing recruitment in the public sector, stopping any new wage negotiations, ending assistance with health

care for 2/3 of families, imposing a new tax on houses, and - through the July agreement with the Unions - abolishing the scala mobile (automatic wage increases linked to inflation).

But perhaps the most important aspect of the response to these measures has been the generalised opposition to the trade union leaders and their political line from the workers and citizens in the streets of every Italian city.

BOMBARDMENTS

22 September, Florence: 100,000 demonstrate

as a regional strike hits Tuscany. Thousands of workers, chanting GENERAL STRIKE, bombard the CGIL union leader Bruno Trentin with volleys of eggs, potatoes, tomatoes, bolts, etc., forcing him to quickly close his speech.

23 September, Milan: 100,000 strike and demonstrate. A UIL union leader, protected by sheets of transparent plastic, tries to speak: but the "street" hurls eggs, bolts and other objects, forcing him rapidly to flight. The self-organised workers, including the Committee of struggle of Breda Fucina, COBAS Ansaldo di Sesto S. Giovanni, COBAS Alfa Romeo, and the Federation of United Metal Mechanic Workers, hold an alternative rally.

25 September, Turin: 80,000 people on the streets, but above all the strike succeeds at Mirafiori-Fiat. The CGIL union secretary, covered by plastic sheets, leads off a rally which is clamorously booed and the target of a nutritious bombardment of vegetables. The union leaders flee.

Numerous other demos included Naples (80,000), then Bologna, Bari, Genova, Parma, Padova, Venezia, Taranto, Brescia, Bergamo: everywhere the trade unions were challenged, and what's more now there really is a consciousness of an alternative organisation of the workers. Especially militant were the public sector workers.

The demand from the workers is

- a country-wide general strike !"

2 October: A national public sector strike with 3 million participants, a general strike in Lazio and dramatic street clashes in Rome as 150,000 - 200,000 demonstrate. The police make unprovoked attacks on school students. Missiles soar towards the Union leaders' platform. The police, aided by the union stewards, violently charge. Over 60 injured and over 100 arrested. Later COBAS and other self-organised workers hold their own march and rally.

In a bid to reassert control over the workers, the 3 main Union Federations have called a half day general strike for 13 October.

COBAS are controlled from below, with mass assemblies taking the important decisions.

Specially strong in the public sector, COBAS have resisted the state's plans for restructuring at the expense of the workers. The railways sections of COBAS have been at the heart of numerous strikes since 1988. The Schools COBAS were to the fore in action to win a much improved contract for teachers in 1989-90. Now the COBAS are starting to spread to the private sector. [Info from Centro di Documentazione anarchica, c/o Casa dei diritti sociali, Via Tonizig, 35129 PADOVA, Italy.



ACT LOGALLY

Old McDonald had a farm McDONALDS Hamburger Cop. Is the largest retail property owner and food service organisation in the world, with annual sales of nearly £20 billion. Behind the glossy and cheerful "Ronald McDonald" is a reality of exploitation of workers and consumers, destroyed environment, unhealthy food, dead animals and a junk food culture.

In 1985 London Greenpeace started an anti McDonalds Day to be held every year on 16 October. Mega rich McD's took offence at this and are now prosecuting 2 activists it accuses of libel (the McLibel 2's). The McLibel 2 are not mega-rich so they need financial support, any 'dirt' on McD's and letters of support to McLibel Support campaign, c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1.

CENTRES FIGHT ON

HARINGEY unwaged centre is seeking community support to defy a Council eviction notice. Another independent unwaged centre resisting attack - Edinburgh - is still open and active.

Meanwhile claimants face Government proposals to cut unemployment benefit to 6 months, and to penalise unemployed judged not to be "actively seeking work" by cutting off all income support without warning.

* Restart advice leaflets, and info on National Claimants Fed. conference in Swindon on 21 November; SUM, Room 20, Pinehurst Peoples Centre, Beech Ave, Swindon
* Haringey Unwaged Centre 031 802 9804 Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre 031 557 0716

Block Telethon

"On 18 July disabled people held a demonstration to block Telethon - against the system of charity in this country and to bring to an end this attack on our rights, humanity and citizenship.

Unless we actively and publicly show our anger they will not stop.

We believe, through strength, we can stop Telethon ever happening again. "From Block Telethon, 3 Crawley Rd., Woodgreen, London N22.

Reclaim the streets

AROUND 300 people protested at the "Karmageddon" demo against the car on 1 August. With 6,000 people dying every year due to cars 'Reclaim the Streets' want more cycle routes, better public transport and pedestrian areas. Info: Reclaim the Streets, 435 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton London SW9 8LN

The scales of justice

PARCELS of Royal salmon from an exclusive £1,000 per week estate have been mysteriously turning up on the doorsteps of elderly villagers in Helmsdale, Scotland. Each package bears this printed message: "From your Carling Poachers. We take from the rich and give to the poor." (Source: The Scotsman)

STUFF THE SUMMIT

Fresh from the National lottery of squandering billions on the sinking £, a new round of Summits bring together the Fortress Europe States. After Birmingham, Edinburgh plays 'host' to a massive junket on 10-12 December and a warm welcome from thousands of protestors is expected. Groups such as Scotland United and Scottish Democratic Resistance are agitating for a Scots Parliament and Scots Republic respectively, but internationalist/anarchist opposition is also being organised. An Edinburgh group coordinating resistance is PO Box 447, SWDO, Edinburgh

PETER McBRIE

300 PEOPLE blocked a main road and demonstrated outside the local police station after 18-year-old Peter McBride was shot dead by British soldiers on September 4.

McBride had walked away from a stop-and-search after answering only a few questions. Pursued by troops he ran into the next street, where he was shot twice in the back. He had already been searched before he walked away: in his pockets were a packet of crisps and a paintbrush. Eyewitnesses described it as 'cold-blooded murder.'

McBride lived and died in a working-class Catholic area, where he had always been hounded by the army and police. Obviously Northern Ireland's unique in many ways, but it has to be put into context, since the

lessons our rulers learn in one place are usually saved up for applying elsewhere. In some ways the North is no different from elsewhere in Europe: poverty, unemployment, and bad housing are facts of life, while legal and practical tricks learnt by the police are 'exported' to the mainland.

Meanwhile in eastern Germany the cops allow ethnic and cultural divisions to fester so as to better divide and rule—and justify a heavy police presence on estates in the East—while unemployment figures go through the roof. With deepening recession, it looks as though the New Europe will have more than a touch of Northern Ireland about it. It's a Europe we're determined to fight.



JOHN PEROTTI BACK IN SOLITARY

AFTER an attempt by prisoners to use an informer "wired for sound" had failed, our old friend John Perotti was flung back into solitary, where he has spent most of the past 8 years as an IWW prison union organiser, and is being held in an "observation cell" under closed-circuit camera and microphone surveillance.

The prison powers are still trying to manufacture a reason for keeping him there.

PROTEST LETTERS: The Warden, Mansfield Correctional Institution, Mansfield, OHIO 44901, USA. SUPPORT: John Perotti #167712, PO Box 1368, Mansfield, OHIO 44901, USA. INFO: Contact the John Perotti Defence Fund (JPDF) c/o Counter Information. DONATIONS ARE MUCH NEEDED.

EDINBURGH ABCNOLONGER HAS ITS PO BOX AND CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH THE CI ADDRESS FOR THE TIME BEING. DONATIONS MUCH NEEDED.

SOME GOOD NEWS

NOEL & MARIE MURRAY were freed in August after serving 16 years in prison for a cop-murder that they've always denied. They were the Irish "Republic's" longest serving prisoners.

All at the Counter Information Collective send their best wishes for the future to Marie & Noel.

Kiranjit Ahluwalia, serving Life for killing her violently abusive husband, was freed on appeal in September.

The decision was made on the basis of new medical evidence however, and not on a legal re-definition of "provocation".

Bill Dunne, editor of the prison paper "Marionette" has been transferred out of Marion Prison after serving 7 years and 7 months in the US' most notorious hellhole. Nice one Bill.

PERU INFO LEAFLET VIA CI-SAE

ABSENT MINDED

RESISTANCE to the Child Support Act (CSA) continues to grow. This Act will force lone parents to supply information on the absent parent, and then compel these absent parents to pay maintenance. The Treasury will pocket all money saved.

The act is aimed primarily at single mothers, the great majority of lone parents, and has been nicknamed The Absent Father Act.

In London the Campaign Against the Child Support Act (CACSA) has successfully defended single mothers against DSS harassment.

In May a Manchester mother won a written apology from the DSS Child Support Unit after she complained of harassment when the DSS tried to force her to attend an interview under the CSA. Until April 1993 it is illegal for the DSS to threaten to cut a single parent's benefit if she or he refuses to provide information about the absent parent. DSS interviews are not compulsory.

In Brighton, the Unemployed Centre has been leafletting the local market, hospitals, nurseries, schools, post-offices, etc. INFO: CACSA, PO Box 287, LONDON NW5 5GU.

BUCACSA, Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, BRIGHTON BN2

GUILTY OF BEING

IRISH

IRISH prisoners continue to be brutalised in English jails.

Eamon O'Donnell and Sean Cruikshank are facing allegations of arson and criminal damage. They are being systematically deprived of sleep, and regularly subjected to vicious strip-searches. O'Donnell is now staging a blanket protest. Support is urgently needed.

Eamon O'Donnell CX1344, HMP Wakefield, 5 Love Lane, Wakefield. Protest letters to the governor of Wakefield prison.

ACTION FOR ANDRE

ANDRE Villaverde is a Peruvian Anarchist prisoner. On 27 October 1991 he was arrested and accused of committing sabotage. Andre is held in Peru's maximum security prison, even though police are unable to provide any substantial evidence.

An International Day of Action has been called for 30 October for the release of Andre. Letters fax to be sent to Sr. Presidente Alberto Fujimori, Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza de Armas, Lima 1, Peru.

Water rip off!

"THE CHEEK of it! They plan to make us pay through the nose for using water!"

Yes, the government wants to privatise Scotland's water industry - but massive public opposition threatens a flood-tide of resistance.

With privatisation plans still 3 years off, local groups and meetings are already declaring that they will refuse to pay the private water bills and will stop water disconnections and the installation of water meters.

One such group is Ibrox Cessnock Anti Poll Tax Group in Glasgow. Their leaflet declares:

"After running down investment in water treatment, the government now wants to privatise the supply of water to create profits for their backers. By selling off the water plants to private companies...the price will be forced up, and meters introduced...."

Water privatisation in England and Wales reveals a horrific 55,000 families threatened with disconnection....

MASS REFUSAL

We have to fight this at all stages, campaigning against implementation to scare off investors; to threaten the introduction of meters, and to launch a campaign of mass refusal....

The anti poll tax movement shows the government can be beat. This time the ecologists for this rotten system, the Labour Party, other politicians and Union leaders are seeking to take over the

campaign from the word go. This must not happen.

Only local groups combining education at street stalls and demonstrations, and prepared with others to engage in direct action involving the people, can beat the new Water Barons. Labour invests public funds in Private Water Companies, Labour-led Councils are fitting meters to new buildings and they always sabotage our resistance by telling us to remain 'within the law'.

**87% against water privatisation
4% in favour**
Poll conducted in Scotland and published
Glasgow Herald 5.9.92

This is impossible. The law is rigged in favour of big business and profiteering, with plans to sell off land owned by water boards....

If you are angry at this threat to our health join us... This water theft can be stopped."



Uncollectable!

£400 MILLION of unpaid poll tax has been written off by councils country-wide as uncollectable, the Dept. of Environment reports.

Non-payers in England and Wales owe over £1 billion! In Scotland the non-payment rate for '92-93 poll tax income is 37% (Scotsman 25.9.92). Taking into account those on rebates and not registered, this means about half Scotland's population are not paying.

Prison threats are not intimi-

dating non-payers in England and Wales. Most beat the jailing threat by just not turning up to the committal hearing. Camden Council's plan to start committals suffered a set-back on 15 July - angry anti poll tax protesters pelted councillors with eggs and stinkbombs, successfully stopping the Council meeting!

The Council Tax starts April 1993. Though concessions have been won - Income Support claimants and students pay nothing - this still protects the rich, penalises many on low incomes, and attacks local serv-

HANDS OFF OUR WATER
Demo in Glasgow 21 November 1992
Details 041 227 5604

MUSHROOMING

Local meetings against the water sell-off are mushrooming. The Hands Off Our Water campaign was launched in September in Glasgow with a reported 176 reps from 70 different organisations, and a policy of non-payment and direct action.

The experience of the anti poll tax movement shows the need for genuine grass-roots control. Though very active in areas like Glasgow, Scottish Militant Labour tend to subordinate grass-roots struggles to their own efforts to replace the Labour Party as the "representatives" of the working class.

Anger at water privatisation, combined with continuing mass poll tax non-payment and the likelihood of widespread council tax non-payment, highlights the possibility of community self-organisation that unites all 3 struggles - and possibly also takes on other struggles like resistance to racist harassment.

Groups like Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network in Edinburgh are attempting to develop in this direction. Community resistance will hopefully be joined by anti privatisation industrial action by the water workers, whose 7,000 jobs are under threat.

Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network 031 667 4299, 332 7547

Autonomous Assembly, All-Scotland coordination forum c/o free university network, 28 King St., Glasgow G1 5GP.

ices. Many will not pay. Groups like London Fight the Poll Tax and Tottenham Against the Poll Tax are now starting to campaign against the Council Tax too.

* Write to the 5 Colchester demo prisoners, Trafalgar Sq, prisoner Tim Donaghy, and jailed non-payers. PT Prisoners Support Network 071 738 7586.

* Info on planned All-Britain anti cuts conference: NW APT Forum 061 707 1584

* New apt leaflet from Haringey (40,000 printed): Hornsey & Wood Green Solidarity Grp. 081 341 3372.

* London Fight the Poll Tax bulletin 081 692 9181 (John). * Glywd APT Fed., PO Box 661, Wrecsam LL11 1HO * Lothian APT hotline 031 557 0718.

A WORLD TO WIN

BUSINESS AS USUAL

The A.N.C. leadership demonstrated their statist plans when they gave assurances in advance of the general strike on 3rd & 4th of August that protests would be "controlled and orderly" and outlawed occupations or sabotage.

The 28 deaths at the hands of troops of the Ciskei puppet homeland on September 7th revealed the alliance of Homeland states and South Africa military circles. Mandela has used Judge Goldstone's report chiefly blaming the Ciskei troops to back away from mass action and resume talks with De Klerk.

PROTECTING THE WILD

4,000 people demonstrated in the Vallee d'Aspe, France on 30 May against a Motorway planned to go through a nature reserve. In Glasgow, a lone protestor has camped on the route of a motorway extension through the countryside of the Pollok Estate, winning support from nearby Pollok residents.

OWN GOAL?

Two Iranian journalists have been gaoled for depicting the late Ayatollah Khomeini as a footballer.

REMEMBERING CHATILA

Despite the election result, shootings continue in Israeli occupied Palestine. On 17th September, the 10th Anniversary of the Sabra & Chatila massacres by Lebanese Falangists encouraged by Israeli commanders, 6 were shot during a demonstration in the Gaza strip.

CHAD CLASHES

Hundreds of women clashed for 2 hours with Police who blocked the route of a march through the Chad capital N'Djamena on 20th July protesting against harsh austerity cuts.

COSMETIC CAPITALISM

120 women workers sacked by Avon Cosmetics in Mexico City have launched an international appeal to press for reinstatement. The Unions colluded in the redundancies.

JAPAN RIOTS

On 1st & 2nd October 1,000 unemployed Japanese workers rioted in a poor district of Osaka. In Aichi, grievances exploded when emergency welfare payments were withdrawn for the day labourers.

DUTCH DEMOS

Anti-militarist action took place at Enschede Airbase and 10 other military sites in support of Jailed activist Kees Koning, on 3/4th May. (A. Infos, Netherlands).

TO HELL WITH SHELL

80 unnamed villagers were massacred and 495 houses razed by federal Nigerian troops after the Shell Oil Company was besieged by demonstrators in River State complaining about polluted land and a suppressed Judicial Commission confirmed (reports: 8-10-92).

SWEDES PROTEST

Tens of thousands demonstrated on October 6th against welfare cuts, tax rises and astronomical interest rates.

HOT AUTUMN IN GREECE

On 10th September police clashed with demonstrators during a march on the Parliament Building in Athens by 100,000 Public Sector workers. Austerity measures to slash Pension provision has angered workers, who have proved resistant to attempts by the State to deflect anger by the diversion of the 'Macedonia' dispute with the former Yugoslav republic. Attempts to ban demonstrations in nearby Salonika were ignored by thousands. Thousands of busworkers continue on indefinite strike against redundancies and privatisation. However, with little emergence of independent rank-and-file committees as in Italy, the Unions sold out the strikers in a revised cuts package.

HEIGHTS EXPLOSION

The Washington Heights area of North Manhattan in New York erupted in rebellion against the Police and big business from July 6th. The killing of 23 year old Jose Garcia sparked the unrest by the mostly Dominican neighbourhood.

After a march on the 34th Precinct Pig Station was blocked, fighting spread as far south as Harlem. Banks and fast-food chain outlets were hastily boarded up, and masked young women kept watch over a peoples memorial at the site of the Police killing. Mayor Dinkins, a black liberal politician hated by the racist Police defused the unrest by promising an inquiry, although powerful drug barons also moved in after 2 days to restore 'business as usual'.
(Source @ Wire NYC Eco-Media bulletin).

HEALTH FIRST

THE FIGHT over a woman's right to reproductive choice dominates American politics. With the high media profile of anti-choice groups like Operation Rescue, many young and militant feminist groups are coming onto the scene and joining the battle. Women's Health Action and Mobilisation (WHAM), Women's Action Coalition (WAC) and the punk-feminist Riot Grrrl have got support from young, pissed-off women, and often work together with gay rights groups like ACT-UP and Queer Nation.

The massive pro-choice rally in Washington DC on 4 April, organised by the Mainstream National Organisation for Women, attracted over 700,000 people. The anarchist contingent was a noticeable element, both for its extreme chaoticness and for its banners saying 'We're Pro-Choice and We Riot.' Part of the group trashed the 'cemetery' which some anti-choicers had set up for "victims" of legal abortions, and the entire contingent found itself chased through parks and bushes by cops on motorbikes. No-one was arrested.

BEATING THE BACKLASH

On 3 June the US Supreme Court handed down a decision upholding most of the re-

BACK IN THE CIS

ASHYPERINFLATION continues—around 1000% since January—the rulers are quite aware that the only solution to the crisis, especially given the recession elsewhere, is to smash living-standards even more than they've done already. Disagreements are over when and how: thus Arkady Volsky's Employers' Union (equivalent of the CBI) calls for reform to be slowed down, whereas some of the yuppies of the Yeltsin era hold such 'radical' views as to make the coke-heads of City trading-floors look like Guardian-readers.

RUSSIAN ROULETTE

Meanwhile Yeltsin fiddles while the underlying antagonisms get deeper and deeper—his latest move being to give everyone 18000 roubles' worth of free shares in hived-off firms (about a month's wages). Most people are expected just to flog them, but they may get less for them than expected, since many of the firms will have had their assets stripped before privatisation.

Struggles are numerous—usually local, but often of no mean size. In Novosibirsk 18000 workers in the defence industry struck against loss of work due to conversion. Transport workers in St. Petersburg successfully struck for more wages, and Russian air traffic controllers are involved in a bitter struggle for pay and conditions. Coalminers struck in Vorkuta to force bosses to pay them on time (nearly a billion roubles were rushed in in a single week); and anger rises in the Donbas as working conditions

deteriorate (one miner is killed every day in the Ukraine alone). Meanwhile, there is increasing distrust of collaborationist union leaders steadily building up their careers in negotiating and keeping things calm.

In Latvia the Government has introduced bread coupons for the poor even as the Prime Minister announces that everyone should either work harder or eat less. Bread riots remain a strong possibility.

GET INVOLVED!

If you like Counter Info, we invite you to write to us, and also to the other groups listed below.

AK Distribution, 3 Balmoral Pl., Stirling FK8 2RD (publications on mail order)

Anarchist Communist Federation, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St. London E1 7QX

Attack International, BM 6577, London WC1N 3XX

Class War, PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW
PO Box 496, Glasgow G14 0PG

Direct Action Movement - IWA, PO Box 29, SW PD0, Manchester M15

London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
Norwich Solidarity Centre - write PO Box 73,

Norwich NR1 2EB

Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network, c/o J. Ball, 24 Dean Pk. St., Edinburgh EH4 1JT

Tottenham Solidarity Network, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15

(If your group would like to be considered for listing, please write to CI in Edinburgh.)

WAR ON WASTELAND

With Glasgow Celtic Football Club wanting to move to Cambuslang, the problem of industrial waste from old industries has surfaced. In Cambuslang, the cocktail of toxic chemicals like arsenic, cyanide, cadmium and asbestos has led to health problems such as cancer, breathing problems, and spontaneous abortions.

A local group, Cambuslang/Carmyle/Rutherglen Against Pollution (CCRAP), has been set up to highlight the environmental damage which has occurred in the past and they hope to avoid in the future.

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COLLECTED BACK ISSUES 1-33 R6 FROM CI EDINBURGH ADDRESS. For info on CI distribution and revolutionary activities in the north of England please write to Counter Info, c/o 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT. For all other matters please write COUNTER INFO, PIGEONHOLE CL, C/O 11 FORTH ST., EDINBURGH EH1, SCOTLAND.
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COUNTER INFORMATION

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 1993

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD?

DESPITE a virtual press black-out, local actions are continuing against the pit closure programme. Dozens of towns have seen marches or rallies, and many of the 1984-5 Miners' Support Groups have been reactivated.

Some of the most dynamic actions have come from Women Against Pit Closures. In December they occupied the offices of Armthorpe colliery for a whole weekend, emerging to be cheered by a 500-strong crowd. In mid-January they set up non-stop 24-hour camps outside the ten pits threatened with immediate closure, promising to keep them going until the future of all pits is secured. On 6 February they organised a demo in London which won considerable support.

Both actions have breathed new life into a grassroots campaign, showing that we don't have to rely on scum like politicians or High Court judges. With redundancies piling up every day, the women who occupied Armthorpe know the score: "It's not just about the miners, it's everybody—health workers, British Rail, all of us."

Contact: National Miners' Support Network, 219 Mare Street, London E8 3QQ (tel. 081 985 1905); Women Against Pit Closures, tel. 0782 281246.

Class Warfare not Workfare

DEFY THE CHILD SUPPORT ACT

FROM April 1993 the new Child Support Act will be used to try to force single parents (usually women) on grants and benefits to name the absent parent of their children.

The government is setting up the "Child Support Agency" to track down these absent fathers and force them to pay "maintenance". The Treasury will pocket ALL the "maintenance" - the children will get NOTHING.

The Campaign against the Child Support Act is calling for a national campaign of non-cooperation with the Act to make it unworkable. Millions of people defied and defeated the Poll Tax. We could do this again against the Child Support Act. We have to work together locally and nationally to destroy this Act and similar attacks.

Pickets and protests have been held at official Child Support Agency presentations in Aberdeen, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heathrow, London and Manchester. The Campaign Against the Child Support Act has forced the DSS to back down in over 30 cases where they were illegally harassing single mothers. Now CACSA are holding a national conference in London on 20 February to co-ordinate grass-roots opposition.

CACSA, PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU. Tel. 071 837 7509.

RESIST ALL BENEFIT CUTS

BEATING drums, blowing whistles and ringing a cow bell, 25 protesting claimants invaded an Edinburgh Benefit Office on 26 January.

Part of the National Claimants Federation Week of Action, the demo was called by Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre to oppose the government's latest benefit cuts.

New regulations, introduced in December, remove benefits entirely from those judged not to be "actively seeking work". Previously these claimants could still receive 60% of income support. What's more, under the new rules claimants can have their benefit cut without warning.

"Any victimisation of claimants by the benefit authorities should be met by demonstrations and direct action at the benefit office responsible," urged the Edinburgh protesters - as for half an hour they drummed, blew whistles, paraded with placards and banners, made speeches and distributed leaflets to staff and claimants inside the High Riggs Unemployment Benefit Office.

Other Claimants Federation activity included an Action for Benefit Rights picket of the Central London Employment Services office on 28 January and mass Benefit Office leafleting by Swindon Unemployed Movement and Brighton Unemployed Workers Centre. With John Major's February speech advocating "workfare" the need is clear for direct action by claimants and workers to stop any such moves towards compulsory work for dole.

EDINBURGH UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CENTRE, 103 Broughton St., Tel. 031 557 0718. Open 12-4pm weekdays. Postal address: EUWC, c/o 1st Floor, 20 Melville Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 1LY. ACTION FOR BENEFIT RIGHTS c/o 11 Barnsbury Rd., London N1 0HG

Water belongs to everyone

WATER theft threatens Scotland. But local community groups are forming to sink government plans to introduce a water privatisation bill this autumn.

Broughton Hands Off Water in Edinburgh declare: "We promise the pirate privatisers that * We won't be paying the private water bills * There will be massive action and resistance against any disconnections or installation of water meters * water privatisation will be stopped."

3,000 marched in the Hands Off Our Water demo in Glasgow on 21 November, with speakers advocating non-payment. In January HOW activists cut off the water supply to the house of Scottish Secretary of State Ian Lang! Local groups already exist in Strathclyde and Lothian.

"We won't pay for privatised water" say 3,000 in Glasgow on 21 Nov.



8,000 took to the streets of Glasgow on 30 January to oppose water privatisation. But the strictly legal protest strategy advocated by the Labour Party and the STUC (the demo organisers) will never stop the Tory water thieves.

As with the poll tax, mass non-payment can win. And grass-roots activists must be ready to totally oppose the government's likely choice of the franchising option for Scottish water - a choice aimed at introducing the massively unpopular privatisation option gradually, through the back door.

In England and Wales water is already privatised. Bills and disconnections are soaring. But resistance has started. In October residents in 5 estates in Carshalton,

Surrey blocked roads to stop Thames Water contractors installing watermeters. Some water stopcocks have been completely sealed with cement!

RESISTANCE IN EDINBURGH: Broughton 031 558 3153. Stockbridge New Town 667 4299. Haymarket Tollcross 229 7487.

ITALY

20,000 marched in Milan on 20 November as various grass-roots workers' organisations called a national strike against the government's austerity programme. While the level of struggle has fallen since autumn, and the self-organised workers' movement is experiencing some divisions, workers' direct actions - occupations, blockades of roads, railways etc. - continue round Italy.

◊ AGAINST RACISM, AGAINST FASCISM, AGAINST THE STATE ◊

HOW best to resist racism and fascism?

Anti racist activity must be based in everyday life in the community, in workplaces, in schools and colleges. Two good examples - Newham Monitoring Project in east London have organised anti racist street patrols in areas like Canning Town. When Kuldip Sekhon was murdered by a racist in January 1990, the Southall community organised a march and 1 day strike which effectively shut down the west London borough.

Fascists must be physically stopped from organising marches, meetings, paper sales or any public activity. This is vital to stop the racist harassment and attacks which the fascists incite and organise. Simultaneously anti racists must resist the most powerful racists - the governments. EC governments, backed by their parliamentary 'oppositions' such as Britain's Labour Party, are combining to turn back refugees fleeing wars, imprisonment, torture and death - devastation itself a product of exploitation by multinationals, the International Monetary Fund, and western arms sales.

Racist state immigration controls are always linked to the profit needs of capitalism. In the booming 50's and 60's Western Europe welcomed immigrants as intended cheap labour. Now, with the recession, the EC are building Fortress Europe. Anti racists must organise material support for, end solidarity with, refugees and all threatened with deportation.

Anti racism should not be seen as a "single issue". For example Southall Black Sisters and the Southall Monitoring Group combine resistance to racism with opposition to male domestic violence and support for workers' struggles and community campaigns against injustice.

Britain's "national" anti fascist groups have significant weaknesses. The Anti Nazi League (SWP dominated) and the Anti Racist Alliance (Labour orientated) are not usually prepared to initiate mass direct action to stop the fascists. They do not seriously oppose state racism, and do nothing to promote anti capitalist struggle. Anti Fascist Action do have a positive policy of stopping the fascists. But everyday resistance to immigration controls, deportations, police oppression, and other institutionalised racism is equally vital.

And, crucially, fighting racism involves helping build widespread resistance to all capitalist attacks; in the course of such struggles black/white divisions can be overcome.

As the Southall Review say: "The fight against racism in the final analysis is the fight against exploitation. It's a fight for class.... It is also a fight against imperialism. All the fights, for the sisters, the gays, they are all symbiotic, they cannot be divided."

Thanks to Southall Monitoring Group/CAFE bulletin.

A GULF IN STANDARDS

The latest air-raids in southern Iraq have rebounded on the West. Not only did allied planes miss targets, kill 20 including civilians, and reinforce Saddam's power within Iraq. With Kurdish areas facing attack and marsh arabs still being persecuted, it also undermined the position of Arab states who supported the Gulf War. Reports reveal medical deformities among the Iraqi population arising from Allied bombing 2 years ago.

With Bush's departure from the White House, even UN 'glove puppet' Secretary-General Boutros Gali has come out against the "double standards" of selective implementation of UN resolutions. The episode of expelled Palestinian Hamas sympathisers on a south Lebanon hillside, with the US in particular protecting Israel, is the clearest example of the double-standards built into the "new world order".

A Clean Up Act

The environmental crisis in Shelland surrounding the oil tanker, Braer, has illustrated the worldwide risk that capitalism poses to the survival of species. The overriding concern of Government and oil companies alike has been to clean up their image, tattered by this latest massive oil spillage.

As with the Exxon Valdez, off Alaska, the spectacle of threats to wilderness and wildlife (even more than their culpability over the Piper Alpha oil rig explosion, Herald of Free Enterprise ferry disaster etc) has exposed how vulnerable we are to the ravages of a system which places profit and exploitation before life. The course of the ship, its lack of maintenance and 'Flags of Convenience' are all symptoms arising from an economy based on production for profit.

2 weeks later and a massive slick resulted from another ruptured tanker in the Malacca strait near northern Sumatra. Clearly such threats are global and we must destroy capitalism to survive.



WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THEM

There was an inspiring response to the support appeals for jailed anarchists Kenny Tollia and Andre Villaverde.

Kenny was jailed after a police riot in New York. Support petitions were sent from Scotland, England, Sweden, Poland and the ex-USSR. Free Kenny demos rallied at US embassies in Warsaw, Minsk, and Moscow.

The International Day of Action for Peruvian anarchist Andre Villaverde (see C135) saw demos at Peruvian embassies and consulates in Budapest, Mexico City, Bonn, Hamburg, Ottawa, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

THEY'RE IN THERE FOR US African comrades are requesting urgent assistance. 4 members of the Nigerian (libertarian socialist) Awareness League were arrested during worker/student demos against increased repression as Nigeria squirms under the iron heel of a World Bank/IMF austerity programme. Despite an ostensible 'return to democracy', union-busting, press censorship, university closure and arbitrary arrest are commonplace.

The 4 - Udemba Chuks, Garba Adu, Kingsley Etioni and James Nduhisi - are being held in inhuman conditions along with human rights activists, civil rights lawyers and student and trade union organisers. The Awareness League is calling for demos outside Nigerian embassies and consulates between 22 and 26 February. Donations are also much needed. For info contact: Awareness League, c/o Samuel Mbah, PO Box 28, Aghani, Enugu State, Nigeria. And Workers Solidarity Alliance, 339 Lafayette St. Rm. 202, NY, NY 10012, USA. Tel. 212 979 8353.

Fighting Bursnall Tyranny Workers at Bursnall metal Finishing plant in Smithwith, West Midlands have been on strike since 15th June 1992. The workers, mainly Asian women are fighting for a safe workplace, union recognition, equal pay and an end to excessive overtime.

Since the strike began, the police have constantly tried to intimidate the strikers and have, as usual, shown their outright support for the employers. Despite the management's attempts to mobilise scabs the strike has continued. On Saturdays the picket line frequently numbers 300.

A victory has already been won in that the DSS has agreed to backdate unemployment benefit on grounds of 'unfair dismissal'. Solidarity action and a boycott of Bursnall's products is being sought. In the 90's with the ban on

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Prisoners continue to fight back.

August '92: active resistance by women in Lexington (Kentucky) Federal Prison. About 100 women, including Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-American, Latina and white, refused to return to their cells, to protest racist staff brutality. 12 were immediately transferred; next day the protest continued and cells were set alight. One woman prisoner said "For a few moments we felt free."

12 December: Prisoners in Perth Prison, Scotland rioted and took a screw hostage to protest the soul-destroying practice of video-recording all visits from loved ones. 3 prisoners have been charged.

Christmas Day: 25 cons in top-security Long Lartin went on hunger-strike to highlight wrongful convictions and brutality. They were joined by prisoners in other jails.

Boxing Day: 50 untied prisoners in Reading Remand liberated and rearranged a wing in frustration at the too-long incarceration before trial. (Commonly more than a year. Over half of those remanded are eventually acquitted without recompense.) 8 screws were hospitalised. The insurgents then tried to smash through the main-gate in a prison van. 150 drafted-in screws crushed the revolt. But they can't crush the spirit of revolt.

28 December: Some Long Lartin prisoners still on hunger strike.

JOHN PEROTTI

Framed prison activist John Perotti is being subjected to increased harassment by the authorities. Send him a card, he needs your solidarity. Cards and leaflets from JP Defence Fund, c/o 45a Bedford Ave., Aberdeen AB2 3YL. John Perotti, POB 1368, no.167712, Mansfield, Ohio 44901, USA.

Sources: Love and Rage, On Gogol Boulevard, Bad Attitude, Shotts prisoners. Compiled by Edinburgh ABC.

union legislation making it harder than ever to mobilise through traditional trade union structures, community action is vital. Info: Bursnall Strikers' Support Committee, c/o Londex, Instrument House, 205/217 Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 9DB Tel: 071 713 7907.

COUNTER INFORMATION

The boot is on the other foot

Up to 4 million people took to the streets of Germany towards the end of '92 - to protest against State racism and fascist violence. This included a rise in counter offensive attacks on neo-nazis.

On 8th November, 350,000 marched in Berlin at a Government sponsored rally. Faced with such hypocrisy, autonomists splattered politicians with paint & eggs. On 9th Nov 100,000 commemorated Kristallnacht, during which 40 Turks occupied the Christian Democrat regional office accusing them of complicity in racist murders. On 21st Nov, masked anti-fascists attacked a restaurant in Erfurt and smashed up the place & fascist diners. On 6th December in Munich and Augsburg, and 13th December in Frankfurt and Hamburg huge demonstrations occurred. On 12th December, Croat, Serb, Turkish and German workers from a local engineering firm held a silent march through Dusseldorf. With polls showing a huge drop in Nazi support on the refugee issue Nazi meetings were broken up in Weisbaden on 23rd Jan. as they complained of being 'the victims of a pogrom'!

250,000 demonstrated in Vienna, Austria on 23rd January against the anti-immigration policies of Jörg Haider & the so-called Freedom Party. Although their nationwide petition reached the 400,000(7%) threshold to force a parliamentary debate, this was less than half what the neo-fascists had predicted. In Belgium on 24th October, 50,000 demonstrated in Brussels.

In Rome on 9th November for Kristallnacht and 28th January throughout Italy huge protests took place. On 12th December, similar widespread protests commemorated the 23rd anniversary of the Piazza Fontana bombings by fascists and the state secret services. A neo-Nazi building was stormed by Italian Jewish youth objecting to anti-semitic stickers in Rome. Throughout Italy footballers protested against racist abuse from some fans.

FIGHTING THE FORTRESS

In Spain 200 were mobilised in Zaragoza to defend a house squatted by a libertarian collective from attack by 200 fascists on 20th November. Next day, central Madrid was blocked off by a protest against the killing of a woman from the Dominican Republic. On the 22nd, in Vitoria and Barcelona, thousands marched against a deportation of 30 Algerians by the Civil Governor.

In Britain, community based campaigns against the planned deportation of William Weekes and Tony Deane are victorious. A campaign has been trying to prevent the Tory council in Ealing from cheng-

war has been raging for decades, over 2,500 troops have been deployed to implement a Geo-thermal project on the slopes of Mt. Apo. Villagers are resisting the clearing of their forests and way of life.

In India, opposition to the massive Narmada Valley Development Project involving the 'relocation' of a million people has forced a World Bank rethink of funding Dam building but this is only a stay in its execution and brutal repression against village-



Over 150 people joined an angry demonstration outside Leeds central police station to protest at police action at an earlier ACT-UP mobilisation, where three demonstrators had been arrested, held in isolation and questioned about their HIV status. Within half an hour of the picket, police chiefs conceded two of ACT-UP's three demands. Direct action gets the goods!

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ing the name of Blair Peach schools in Southall (in memory of the murdered anti-Nazi activist). On 7th November, 1,000 people participated in a march to commemorate racist murders such as Prohl Duggal. The next day, in York and London anti-fascists were active against Nazis during 'Remembrance Sunday'.

On 28th November, 1,500 attended the annual march in Glasgow against racism & fascism, during which a small BNP counter demo was chased away by angry demonstrators & only saved from a beating by the police. On 17th December the Drummond Street Defence Campaign picketed Action Magistrates Court in support of Muzibur Rahman and Sahab Uddin, 2 bengalis framed by police. On 12th January in Stoke Newington 400 marched on the police station on the 10th anniversary of Colin Roach's death in police custody. On 23rd January in Edinburgh, hundreds marched against the Asylum Bill which threatens to send refugees back to torture or death. The speeches were by activists rather than politicians. On 29th Jan. 3 Newham Monitoring staff were ambushed by a group of white racists using weapons. Hossein Zahr received severe head injuries but is recovering. On 2 Feb. charges of threatening behaviour were dropped against a victim of police assault, Gill Smith in Newham. East Info: PO Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7. Tel. 081-555-8151.

More ANTI RACIST CONTACTS

Southall Monitoring Group, 6a South Rd., Southall, Middlesex UB1 1RT. Tel. 081 843 2333. Refugees Ad Hoc Committee for Asylum Rights Tel. 071 738 6408. Anti Fascist Action Northern Network, Box 151, 52 Cal Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT. Lothian Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, PO Box 474, Edinburgh EH1 2QT. Info on Germany from Anti-Racism office, Siegwali 38, 2800 Bremen.

A WORLD TO WIN

Building Resistance:

On the average 3 building workers are killed every week. In light of this the Construction Safety Campaign (CSC) organised a march in London on 25th November '92 which was attended by 1,000 building workers, supporters, and relatives of those who had been killed or maimed in the construction industry.

Counter Information is doing a fuller article in the near future, from asbestos poisoning to negligence. Any info on the subject of resistance to this would be much appreciated.

United - We Win!

The decision of Hoover workers in Cambuslang, Glasgow to accept lower wages in order to attract more jobs is a mistake. Outraged by Hoover's plans to close their factory as a result workers in Dijon, France are campaigning against present-day policies of playing one group of workers off against another. Remember, capitalism has no national allegiance!

Contesting Conquest

A threat to disrupt a Columbus Day parade by 500 supporters of the American Indian Movement was successful on Oct. 11th '92 in Denver, Colorado. Elsewhere in Mexico and Bolivia tens of thousands of peasants protested and in Ecuador, Indians blocked the Pan-American highway. In San Francisco, a staged "re-enactment" of the landing was disrupted by a breakaway group of 200 from a tame leftist march.

(info Profane Existence).

Revotting Pupils

Agitation in Athens and other Greek towns includes occupations of 140 schools by school students revolting against imposed exams.

Sanity Claus

Late December, Paris, France; Around 100 homeless people took over the lobby of the luxury George V hotel to hold a Christmas party. During the party homeless children were given presents. The party was arranged to highlight the lack of housing available to the poor.

Riots & Molotovs

9-11 Oct, At Vaulx en Velin (in Lyon) an eighteen year old youth who had to pass a police blockade was beaten by a cop. In reaction to this, during 3 days, 150 to 400 set fire to cars and attacked the police station with molotovs, stones, fire etc. 8 youths were arrested by the 300 police brought from Lyon to 'restore order'. The police chief, who had to justify the violence and repression, declared "This was nothing like a social revolt. These acts were committed by delinquents."

16 Oct, About 30 youths attacked a police station in Asnières (Paris suburb) with incendiary bombs and molotovs. Four cops were injured. This followed the death of a 24 year old man who committed suicide after



Women march in Leeds (photo Paula Solloway)

WOMEN took to the streets of Leeds in January in a show of strength and solidarity. After a series of rapes and assaults women have received scaremongering 'advice' from media and police to stay at home and never travel alone. A busy junction was blocked for half an hour by demonstrators asserting their freedom to travel wherever, whenever and however, in safety.

A similar demo took place in Edinburgh on 29 January when women marched to "Reclaim the Night," while in December marchers in Cardiff demanded better street lighting and evening transport. On 28 November 4,000 women demonstrated in London to mark the International Day to End Violence against Women and protest against world-wide attacks on women's rights and bodies.

CONTRA-FLOW

AN important struggle against ruling class transport needs is going on near Winchester. Faced with the Dept of Transport decision to cut through Twyford Down to plug a gap in the M3, 40 or so people camped out on the site, including around 10 who call themselves the 'Donga tribe.'

'Donga' refers to the Down's many Iron Age (Celtic) trackways, some of which are up to 20 feet deep. The land also contains a prehistoric village. Active resistance has continued for over a year.

In December, after Winchester College took the squatters to court to evict them, 80 security men with bulldozers steamed into the pathways. People resisted, throwing themselves in front of bulldozers and climbing trees, but were finally beaten with considerable violence. Some women protesters were sexually assaulted.

Twyford Down is a funny struggle. First, the local Great and Good, mainly Tory, clearly object to Whitehall johnnies interfering on their patch, and some even seem to back the squatters. This can only obscure the relatively recent appearance in one of England's snottiest-nosed cities of a stratum of caravan-dwelling long-term unemployed people, whose tendency to stand together on the Down 'issue' must be causing serious shivers among College masters, local judiciary, clergy and the rich.

Second, there are the 'Donga' minority: while they

RECLAIM THE STREETS!

IN BRITAIN cars and lorries kill 5000 and injure 200,000 each year. In what used to be safe play areas and vibrant meeting places they also cause untold levels of ill health, lead-poisoning, noise-related stress, aggravated asthma, etc.

Residents of Tottenham, London, sick of child-deaths, pollution, rat-runs, danger-spots and lorries on the streets, have started to fight back. Already residents of Dorset Road have blocked roads to stop commercial lorries putting children in danger; people in Mount Pleasant Road won speed restrictions after putting up homemade signs saying '20 MPH ZONE'; and 100 adults and children set up a road block in Green Lanes. Info: Tottenham Community Action, T'ham Solidarity Group meets every other Tuesday at 72 Wood Green Road at 7.30. Tel 081 802 9804.

are against the government and are taking direct action, they also make an absurd appeal to the Royal family to save the Down!

More positively, though, also in December, Winchester Class War organised the city's first ever 'March Against the Rich.' Excellent! Road-blocking and direct resistance to Tarmac is good, but we hope that in '93 the trouble on the Down will spread into the town itself. Bollocks to the Queen! As the American anarchist Lucy Parsons put it: "Devastate the avenues where the wealthy live!"

South Downs Earth First!, c/o Prior House, Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2. Earth Info Line 0225 44133.

NURSES' ACTION

LONDON HOSPITALS were put on official alert in early January because of a beds/cash shortage. Patients were thrown out and only emergencies admitted. The government want to shut 1 in 4 London hospitals, with similar closures elsewhere.

In late November a nurses' strike and occupation at

University College Hospital forced the reopening of a 22 bed ward, the promise of consultation in future, the return of student nurses to the ward and no victimisation for those taking part. Patients, porters and the local community all gave support.

Now the authorities want to shut UCH completely in July. Determined to fight, workers have already voted to ballot for an occupation.

GET INVOLVED!

If you like Counter Info, we invite you to write to us, and also to the other groups listed below:

AK Distribution, 22 Luton Place, Edinburgh (mags, pamphlets, books - write for new catalogue)
Anarchist Communist Federation, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX (contacts Britain-wide)
Attack International BM6577 London WCIN 3XX
Autonomous Assembly, c/o FUN, 28 King St, Glasgow G1 5QP (network to link struggles in Scotland)

Class War: PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9FW: PO Box 496, Glasgow G14 0PG (Britain-wide & international)
London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
Norwich Solidarity Centre and Norwich Direct Action Movement - both at: PO Box 73, Norwich NR1 2EB
Storkbridge New Town Solidarity Network, c/o J.Ball, 24 Dean Pk. St., Edinburgh EH4 1JT
Tottenham Solidarity Network, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15
(If your group would like to be considered for listing, please write to CI in Edinburgh.)

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For info on CI distribution and revolutionary activities in the north of England please write to Counter Info, c/o 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT.

For all other matters please write COUNTER INFO, PIGEONHOLE CI, C/O 11 FORTH ST., EDINBURGH EH1, SCOTLAND.

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WORLD TO WIN

DAN DARE

A DISABLED anti "Children in Need" demo on 20 November saw over 70 people blockading entrances to the BBC TV studios in London.

"Disabled children are in need because television portrays them as either pathetic, sad victims or courageous brave heroes. The BBC must put a stop to abuses of this nature. They have not got our permission," stated the Direct Action Network.

DAN, 68 Alexandra Court, Empire Way, London HA9 0QP. IN THE ANTI TELETHON action in July '92 a 1,000 strong crowd burst from the confines of its barricades and blocked the entrances to the London Weekend TV studios.

These protests highlight the fact that disabled people should have their needs met as of right rather than being forced to rely on charity.

GOING, GOING....

THE HATED poll tax will be abolished in April. Resistance continues to collection efforts. November saw crowds of locals successfully defending non-payers' homes in West Lothian from sheriff officers. In Lambeth 41% have yet to pay a penny!

The introduction of the replacement Council Tax is being accompanied by massive cuts in Council jobs and services. Scattered anti cuts strikes are breaking out in Councils country-wide.

Lothian APT Hotline 031 557 0718. London Fight the Poll Tax 081 692 9181 (John). NW APT Forum 061 707 1584 (info on public services/communities unity conferences)

THE McLIBEL TWO

THE McLIBEL Support Campaign are calling for a week of protests before the libel trial of the 2 London Greenpeace supporters being sued by McDonalds Hamburger Corp.. A demo will besiege the High Court on the first day of the trial, expected this summer. McLibel SC, London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. 081 837 7557.

Liquidating the Stock

Workers occupying a Forges de Clabecq steelworks in Belgium protesting about a threatened 10% payout in December seized 7,000 bottles of wine from the Company cellars and threatened to sell them at 200 francs each.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

AS we go to the printers we are well short of the cash needed to meet our postage and print costs. Please send donations as soon as possible, to enable us to continue publishing Counter Info.